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34. *Grant of permission for the removal of timber.*

Mr. P. Paramaswaran Pillai (Member, Pathanapuram Taluk) prayed (1) that free permission might be given to the owners of trees, other than royal trees, to transport timber through the public roads, without a pass from the Forest Department, (2) that, to save the ryots from the inconveniences they now experienced in getting passes, the Forest Department should be required to adopt effective measures to prevent the smuggling of Sirkar timber, and (3) that if this prayer could not be granted, applicants for passes for the transport of timber should not be required to produce evidence, to the elaborate extent now demanded, but that the passes should be granted, without loss of time, by simplifying the procedure now adopted and by getting the required information direct from the Revenue Department.

Dewan's reply.—The Forest Regulation is being amended. New rules will be framed, and in doing so, the points mentioned by the Member will be given due consideration.

IV. Public Works.

35. *Preservation and maintenance of rainfed tanks.*

Mr. K. Raman Tampi (Member, Vilavancode Taluk) stated that the ryots of the Vilavancode taluk mainly depended upon rain for their crops and they were not benefited by the Kodayar project. Hence he suggested that all the rainfed tanks which supplied water for irrigation must be taken up by Government and carefully preserved, so that, in times of need, water might be distributed to the fields.

Dewan's reply.—The rainfed tanks could only be taken up group by group. The Chief Engineer is engaged in making investigations. He will prepare a scheme in regard to the tanks of the taluk and submit the same to Government. On the receipt of the Chief Engineer's report, Government will consider your suggestions. But it will take several years. In any case, this work will have to be postponed till after the completion of the Kodayar works.

36. *Equitable distribution of the allotment for public works with due regard to the requirements of the several taluks.*

Mr. Paramaswaran Pillai (Member, Ettumanur Taluk) stated that, in distributing the funds for public works every year, due consideration might be shown to those taluks which yielded substantial revenue and in which the absolute wants of the people, such as roads, canals, tanks, &c., remained to be attended to. In regard to local wants, it was not possible for the Government to fully realise the urgency of the works required. The Member suggested that it was therefore desirable that the Tahsildars, who had to go round their taluks very often,

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might be directed to look to the condition of the roads, &c., as they might be able to know the importance and urgency of the works, and that it would be better to carry out the public works of a taluk with the co-operation of the principal land-holders in it. The Member also pointed out that a Conference consisting of the Chief Engineer, the Dewan Peishkar and the Taluk Representatives, should be held to decide the amount to be allotted to each taluk.

Mr. Atchutha Panikar (Member, Parur Taluk) stated that public funds should be distributed with due regard to the wants of the several taluks and the revenue derived from each taluk; and he also requested that a Conference consisting of the Chief Engineer, the Dewan Peishkar and the Taluk Representatives, should be held to decide the amount to be allowed to each taluk.

Mr. K. Thomman (Member, Minachil Taluk) represented that the income of his taluk was not in any way less than that of any other taluk, but the money that was expended on public works for the benefit of the former was not proportionate to the income realised, and that even the small sum allotted was not well spent by the authorities. He prayed to Government that steps might be taken to allot an amount for public works in proportion to the income of the taluk and to improve communications in the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

37. The necessity for expeditiously carrying out the programme of public works sanctioned for the Kottayam Division.

Mr. K. C. Mamman Mappilla (Member, Kottayam Taluk) stated that he had looked into the office-note showing the stages at which the several works, mentioned in the programme drawn up by the Kottayam Division Members of the last Assembly, now stood; and he thanked the Government for the expeditious way in which the programme was being attended to.

Dewan's reply.—Thank you. The Chief Engineer will admit that the public works sanctioned for the Kottayam Division have not been carried out as expeditiously as could be desired. But we hope that, with additional hands, the several works will be expedited.

38. Inaccessibility of the eastern taluks and the apathy of the P. W. D.

Mr. Nilakanta Panikar (Member, Changanacheri Taluk) represented that the inhabitants of the eastern taluks underwent great difficulties for want of proper communications. The only roads were the M. C. road and one or two small roads. Therefore he prayed that steps might be taken to construct more roads.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

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